DALETPLUS NEWS SUITE GENERAL FEATURES (VERY BRIEF) AUGUST 26, 2009 PREPARED BY ROBERT MOORE WOOMZA.com

Rather than compare DaletPluse News Suite, to Final Cut Server and other database products, it might be easier to simply tell you, in very general terms, the features of DaletPlus New Suite.... What it can do!

It can basically do everything that Final Cut Server can do, plus whole, lot more... to the extreme! The only limits on the WB/TMZ and in general DaletPlus News Suite is it only understand HDV and DV with stereo, 16bit, 48k audio and only image file types JPEG, PNG and TIF.

Dalet produces Proxy files, in the same way that FCServer does, but with a single Proxy Server, it can produce up to 9 MPEG2 Proxies simultaneously and each Proxy at around 5 to 6 times real-time!!!! (I don't know how they get that speed, but it's very fast, compared to Compressor!) Typically, you will have 3, or more Proxy Servers (more is better, like FCServer). TMZ had 3.

In very simple terms.... FCServer is a database, Dalet News Suite is that and a Broadcast facility all roled into one – it can virtually do everything (buggy, but it does work)!

DALET COMPANY HISTORY (<u>http://www.dalet.com</u>)

First, a quick intro to the company. Dalet is the name of the company, with corporate Headquarters in Paris, France, with engineering and development in Israel, and a US office in New York (I don't know if there actually is an office, more likely it's an apartment the Director of US operations lives at). They have no offices in the Los Angeles area, they have one engineer who does live in the Los Angeles area, but who travels the world and he is mostly not in the country. Dalet, the company name and symbol, as it turns out, is the fifth character of the Hebrew alphabet and the Dalet company originally started in Israel, with the Founder moving and now living in Paris, France (I believe... not confirmed, it was always unclear? As a matter of fact, when Dalet seemed to be completely stalling WB on delivery, WB sent their VP of IT to Israel for a surprise visit, and what he found was, basically, a dirt hut, out in the country, not near any city, with a few people working there... though the WB exec never would reveal the specifics to me, it sounded like a pretty small operation and I know the LA Office, is an apartment in LA, where a person with operational experience of Dalet and the LA Dalet Rep lives.).

Dalet offers a number of products.... Including simple massive database systems used by many radio stations and governments, primarily in Europe (visit the Dalet website for details). DaletPlus News Suite is the product that Warner Brothers purchased to use at TMZ, and which they are now using on their others shows, as well as 20th FOX is also now using Dalet (in a smaller scale).

DALETPLUS NEWS SUITE FEATURES (very simplified)

DaletPlus News Suite is a PC/WindowsXP only client app. There are very, very specific Service Pack and hardware versions that are allowed... Dalet may not, and usually will not function unless these specific guidelines are met. There is only ONE DaletPlus News Suite

install in the world, that I'm aware of and that is the TMZ build and this is also the one and first Dalet install that uses video and Final Cut Pro. All others are massive files database, or for radio stations (audio management and etc., no video).

Dalet Interweb is supposed to work on PC, or Mac, over the Internet using Explorer on the the PC, or FireFox on the Mac. I was provided with different versions, but none fully worked. It is supposed to provide all the functions of DaletPlus News Suite, but maybe only 10% of the features ever worked and those were very, very buggy!

DaletPlus News Suite is actually an amazing product, packed with more features than any other software, or hardware product on the planet! Or so it appears. It actually is a shell, with many apps running within the main window and many hardware servers to support each app. There is separate Server for Applications, Database, Proxy Render.... there's like a dozen, separate hardware Servers for DaletPlus News Suite to work properly... I've never seen so many Servers for one system!

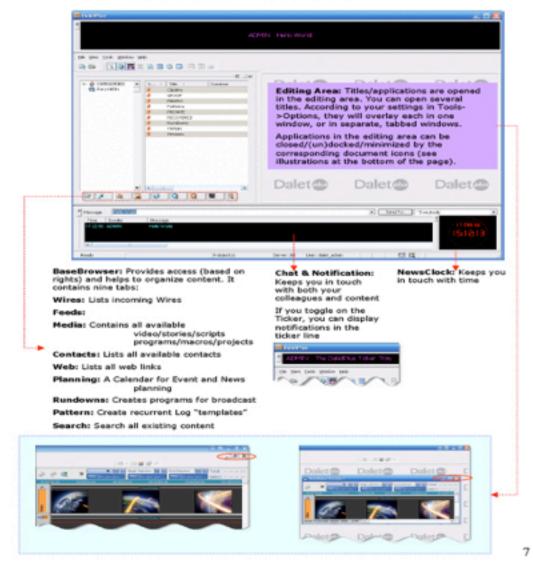
DaletPlus News Suite has very advanced email and network (IT) features, including email and facility notify of any and all events were programmable, media and assets can be sent via email to anyone.... and etc., like FCServer, but much more.

DaletPlus News Suite can work on a single computer, but it is designed to run on a large array of Servers. It's like if you had Final Cut Server running on a single computer... you can do it, but it is not recommended. For demonstrations and in the training room, DaletPluse News Suite was running on a single PC and it worked fine!

DaletPlus News Suite, like Final Cut Server, is a client app sitting on the host computer that allows you to run Dalet applications. A big difference is that Dalet has many, many different apps, where FCServer has only a database app. Dalet allows you to run a variety of Dalet applications in a single window, or you can tear away the apps from the main window and use them on their own.

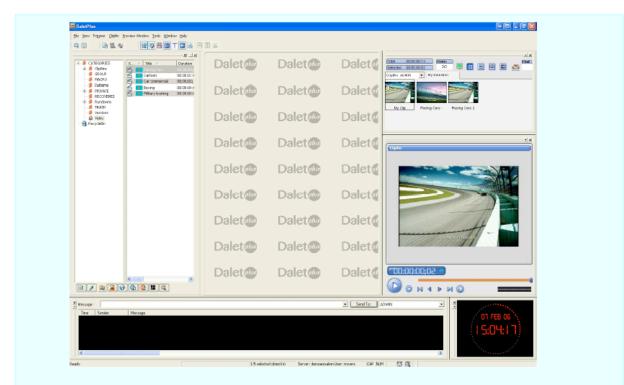
The Client Interface

The DaletPlus interface can be challenging and requires some exercise. It consists of several windows that by default snap to each other.



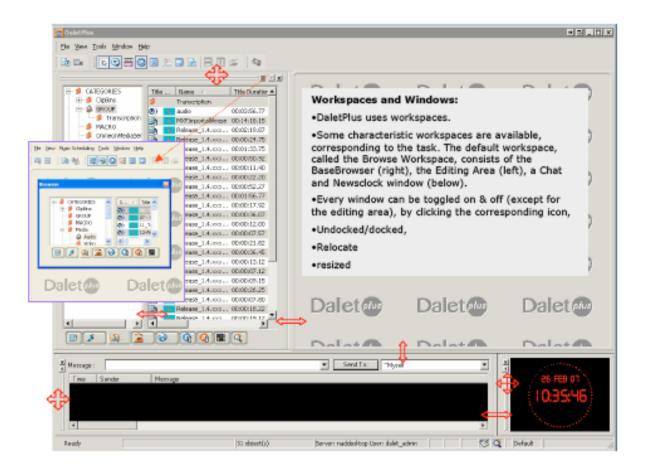
(Note: NewsClock can be customized to any size, colors and etc... and can display system time, or be synchronized to a Real-Time, or SMPTE Time Code clock, as in TV Studio Time.)

DOCUMENT WINDOW – When you first startup DaletPlus New Suite, you see the "Document Window". The "Document Window" is the main window where ALL Dalet apps sit within, or you can tear each app away to sit in their own window.



DaletPlus showing BaseBrowser, Editing Area, Chat & Clock windows, and the ClipBin and Preview windows.

WORKSPACE – The Workspace is the Document Window and any combination of apps within the Document Window. You can design any number of Workspace's, so every Dalet User can have their own Dalet layout, or for any kind of work a User is doing, they can have a unique Workspace. The Workspace can be called by a single programmable keystroke, for example, if a User is doing Searches, but they only want the Media and Viewer windows open, they can call that Workspace up with a single keystroke, and if they then need to write a new script, but want to have script editor open and trimmer window open that can be a different Workspace, called up with a single keystroke and so on. There can be any number of Unique Workspace's for each Dalet User.



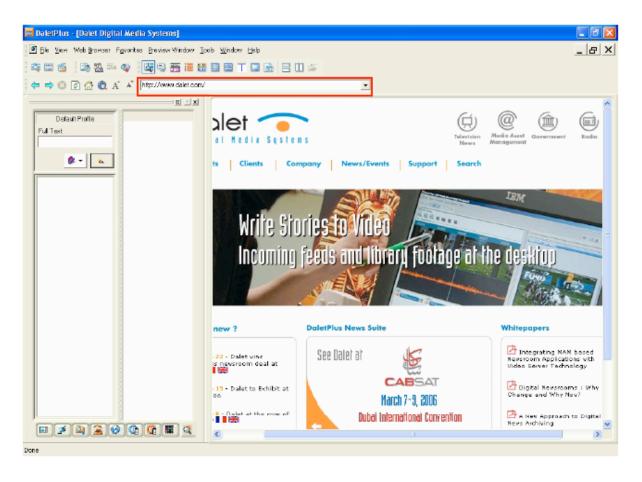
BASE BROWSER - is the primary app that sits in the "Document Window" and includes up to and any combination of 9 tabs (based on User Access Rights); Wires, Feeds, Media Categories, Contacts, Web, Planning, Scheduling, Patterns and Search. Normally, from this app you access all other apps and assets.

SEARCH (AND ADVANCED SEARCH)- A virtually unlimited palette of Search functions, through all facets of Dalet, Media, files and etc. This is the most advanced Search app I have ever seen! Dalet has developed this over many years of system installs and customer support, for massive installs at radio stations to entire Governments! It is very, very extensive and I doubt FCServer will ever match its features (nor will FCServer ever need to match its vast search features).

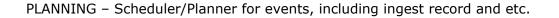
MEDIA – This the tab where are media files are databased.... This can be anything! Video, audio, images, documents.... Anything! Governments will use this app to file away all types of government files.... This is similar to the Finder on a Mac, where folders and files appear for easy selection, move, cut, copy, paste, drag and drop to all other apps.

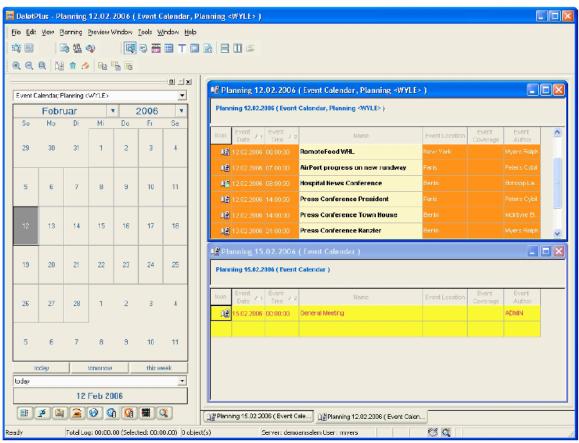
CONTACTS – This tab is where your contacts can be kept.... Names, phone numbers, email....

WEB – A basic web browser, you can cut, copy and paste from this browser to your script and other files.



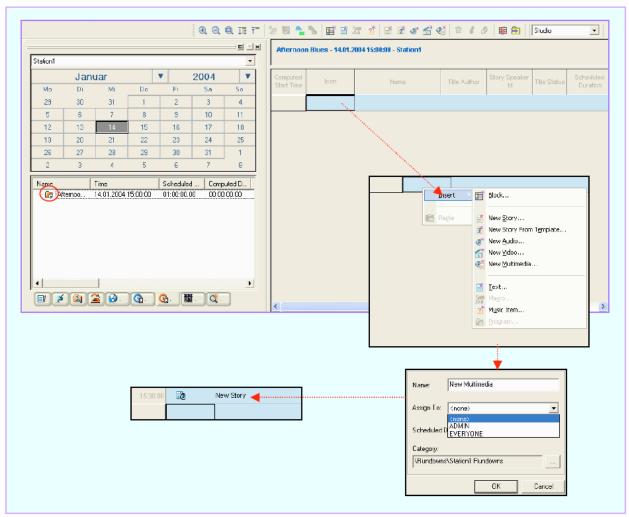
WIRES – These are news wires, including API, CNS and others. These can be displayed in real-time, in a stacked list order, or they can stream across a real-time "ticker" window. You can copy and paste from these wires, into the on-board word processor app (NewsEdit), or other apps that have word processing I/O. Display and layout is very flexible, as a ticker, list doc, doc with more story....





DaletPlus with two planning dates open, each using different views.

RUNDOWNS / RUNDOWN EDITOR – From here, you program playout from Omneon. The playlist can be changed in real-time, including you can insert a live shot, or move projects around, put them on hold, stop them.... For a typical, 4 act TV show, you have a list of packages, that include script and quicktime/MOV's. This list can be changed on the fly.



(Note: Any number of Rundowns for any day any number of packages in a Rundown for playout. Any number of Packages can be programmed for playout through the Omneon Video Server. The process can be fully automated, when you drop a Package into the Rundown, Dalet will automatically find the Hi-Res media files and load them into Omneon for Playout. From the Rundown, you can, in real-time, on the fly, cut, copy, paste, move, put on hold, stop and even record new footage for live insert!)

Current litem		Time To Next:					Over-Under Time:	
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13:39:11	- Co	LEAD Story A1		00:00:50				
13:40:02		YO Story A2		00:01:31				
13:41:33		LEAD Story B1		00:01:23				
13:42:57		VO Story B2		00:04:10				
		New Story		00:00:00				

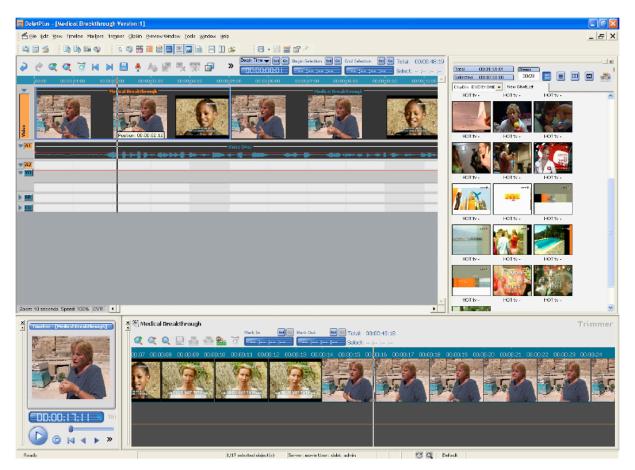


Time to next counter of an Item that exceeds its computed duration.

During playout, there are a number of clocks in the Rundown that tell when each clip/ package is about to play, total runtime, time left in program and etc. You are fully informed for every event so you can make changes in real-time and on the fly (though these clocks tend to be quite buggy, you we were constantly verifying that they were correct! You could be off by a few frames, to several minutes, which would lead to many panics at airtime!).

PATTERNS – Patterns are used to design and program a RunDown list.

TIMELINE – Video and Audio editor, like the Sequence in Final Cut Pro. This one is limited to cuts only, with simple dissolves, also adjusting audio levels, record of VO (typically a scratch VO) using a USB, or other mic on the client PC.

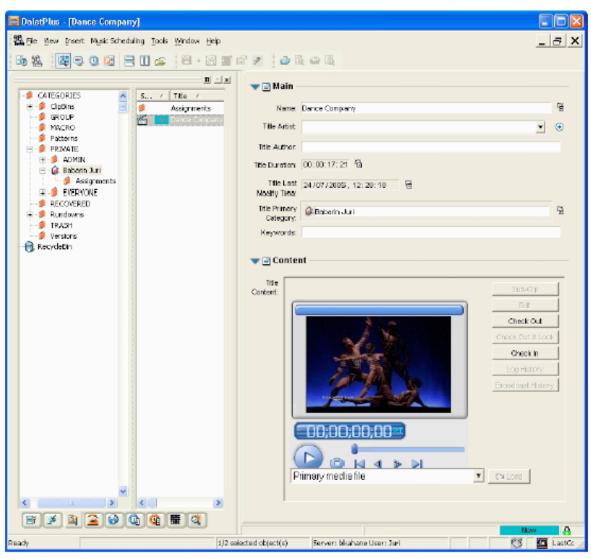


Timeline, Trimmer, ClipBin apps.... Trimmer marks I/O, Timeline edits, clip bin stores you clip selection... There can be one video track, eight audio tracks, one VO track, one Graphics track and One CG track (additional hardware needed for CG).

TRIMMER – This is an app that appears within the Documents Window, that allows you to view single clips (video and/or audio) and select an IN and OUT point, which you can load into a Timeline, or export directly as an XML 1.0 referenced file the to HiRes Media. That XML can be used in Final Cut Pro, or any external system that understands XML 1.0, which includes AutoMatic Duck for Avid, After Effects.... and etc.

CLIP BIN – This is a drag and drop Bin, where video and/or audio clips can be dropped to using the Trimmer, or Search Window. Once you have a list of clips (one clip to any number of clips), you can export as XML 1.0. For example, Final Cut Pro, would receive the XML and all clips in the export would appear in an FCP Timeline/Sequence.

ASSET MANAGER – This is an app that allows you to add, change, or remove metadata, as well as program many different aspects of any asset on Dalet, as well as preview footage, make notes per SMPTE Time Code and etc. A very powerful tool!



An opened Asset Manager Form

CHAT WINDOW/TICKER – Dalet includes an instant messenger, that any user can select for any combination of any, or all Dalet users to see a message. For example, at TMZ, if there was a breaking story, the producer of that story could announce to all at TMZ and all at TMZ could reply..... This Chat Window is also selectable as copy/paste for using in the story editor and elsewhere. CRASH RECORDER – A Dalet app that allows any user, with permission (rights) to record video, and/or audio. Typically, there was only a single system give rights with this app and that one system could do it all, including route signals throughout the facility, control record functions for all video/audio recorders, including timed, studio camera record, feed record and etc. Only a single system was given this right... you would not want everyone to have this right, only the Broadcast Manager.

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FIFO RECORDER – Any authorized user could access the FIFO's. There are any number of separate FIFO (First In, First Out) Recorders, which are all fully programmable. In their simplest configuration, they are a 24hour, 7days a week, LOOPING video recorder. TMZ had 9 of these, that could be set to any Direct TV/Cable/Satellite channel, as well as fibre feeds to the building from GDMX, or any video/audio source and programmed for any time of day, or simply let loop record. From Dalet, you could view any of these FIFO's and select any, or all of the video they record, and export that clip to the SAN, for use by any of the FCP edit bays, or Dalet users.

LEITCH ROUTER INTEGRATION – Any authorized user can access the Leitch video/audio routers, to route a signal to any device in the building. For example, a fibre feed from outside the building could be routed to any FCP edit bay, or FIFO recorder, or the Omneon... all from within Dalet. The entire building, video and audio, every signal from every FCP edit bay, the Broadcast Control Room, VO Booth, Phone VO, the FIFO"s, the Omneon, video/audio feeds from outside the building... could be routed using Dalet!

DALETPLUS INTERWEB – is a client app for use on Mac and PC's over the Internet. But last I saw, it never worked, even though Dalet demonstrated a "working" version at least a year before the TMZ Dalet install? From what I can tell, they only demonstrated a webpage, designed to emulate Dalet. Dalet did provide us with Interweb versions, but none ever worked. The interface looks pretty much like the DaletPlust News Suite interface, but in a Web Browser.

MEDIALOGGER – The logging tool used initially to log new media that had been previously ingest into Dalet, either by the Crash Recorder, the FIFO's, or dragged to the Dalet "Watch Folders".

MEDIAWALL – This is a simple app that allows you to view any number of video sources.

NOTIFICATIONS – A simple app that allowed the user to program automated notifications when operations are complete, or initiated.

PLANNING EDITOR – A app to program calendar and other Dalet and facility events..

PREVIEW WINDOW – you can preview any video/audio clip very quickly in this window/app.

RUNDOWN VIEWS – you can view any number of Rundows here and cut, copy, paste between any Rundown.

NEWSEDIT – is the application for writing stories, inserting media, directors/producers notes and etc. This is the "package", that will be dropped into a Rundown for playout throught a video server, like the Omneon Video Server. Video content includes HD, SD and other video/audio formats.

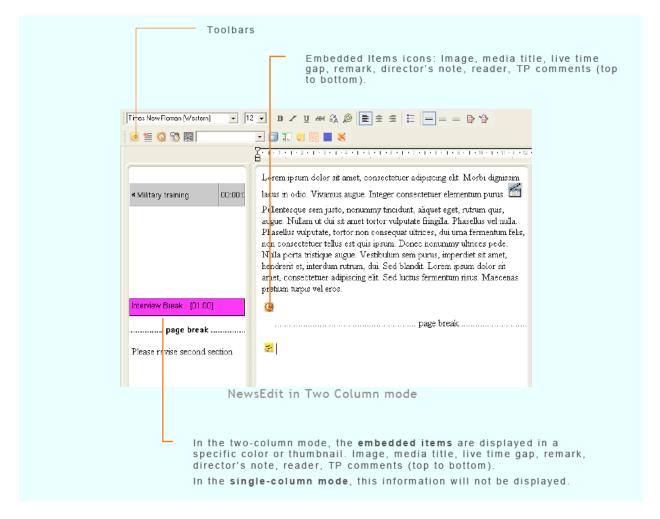


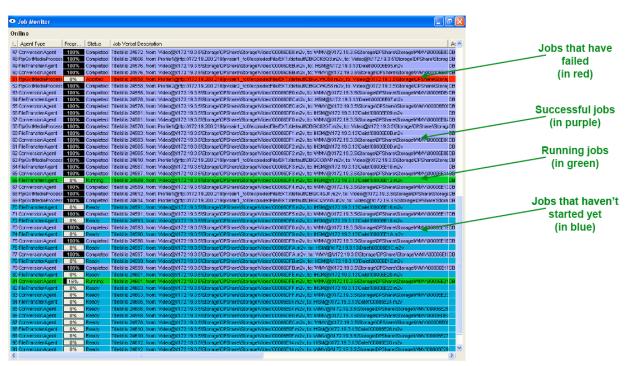
IMAGE EDITOR – is a very basic PhotoShop app. Pretty much no one ever uses it, other than possibly to crop an image before export as XML.

Understanding the Image Editor Interface

IMAGE EDITOR has three parts, a unique Toolbar, an Editing area and a Color Palette.



JOBS MONITOR – This app shows you jobs as they are being processed. Includes jobs like, proxy generation, media files move (from SAN to Omneon for playout, for example), files move, copy, delete, Hi-Res and Proxy Media files....



2.2 BrokerMonitor

ARCHIVAL – XENDATE – DaletPlus News Suite fully automates the process of archival and backup of all assets, as well as the media files and Dalet databases themselves. Archival can be manually performed, to or from the SAN, or programmed by date, SAN

capacity, folder capacity.... basically, any method.... If an asset is archived, it displays an icon, if you need that asset back, you simply select it for return and it is moved back to the SAN in minutes. You never really lose any media!

ADMINISTRATION - The administration windows are very, very advanced, offering any number of security measures possible... keeping in mind that entire governments are using this product in Europe, the security and administration levels are very, very advanced (likely more than FCServer will ever be)!!!! The simplified Administration Guide that Dalet provides for this system is 176 pages long!!!!

Groups

Go to **User Management ⇔Groups** to see the following screen:

🛷 DaletPlus Admin [on Broadd	astDaily]						_ [×
File Help								
Media Format Management	Groups							
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The window will display a list of system-generated groups that are typically used by DaletPlus customers.

(Note: This is only one window of dozens of Admin window... all fully programmable!)

DaletPlus Glossary

Asset Manager Forms	The DaletPlus Asset Manager display that allows users to enter, modify, or view a collection of related Media Assets and Meta-Data. A Title Form usually consists of one Media Asset and multiple Meta-Data entries, however, a Title Form could consist of any combination and number of Media Assets and Meta-Data entries.					
Auto Save	DaletPlus can all <x> minutes save your script. This setting is configured by the administrator and is available for NewsEdit only.</x>					
BaseBrowser	The BaseBrowser consists of up to nine tabs, arranging the different areas of working with DaletPlus. To browse wires you open the wires tab, to browse for media titles, you open the media tab.					
Block	A subprogram of a program.					
Category	Titles are assigned to a Category in the DaletPlus Database for organizational purposes. Categories are used for displaying and searching for titles as well as for scheduling and purging purposes. A category can confer a status on a title and this makes categories extremely useful for creating a customized workflow.					
Chat Window/Ticker	Displays notifications and personal messages.					
ClipBin	Media library for storing, arranging, rendering clips extracted by MediaLogger, Trimmer, or Timeline.					
Crash Recorder	Application to instantly record media from feeds.					
DaletPlus Asset Manager	Media Assets and Meta-Data stored in the DaletPlus Database are cataloged, organized, entered, searched, and viewed using the DaletPlus Asset Manager.					
DaletPlus Database	A database of Media Assets and Meta-Data.					
DaletPlus InterWeb	A DaletPlus user interface that is provided through a web browser interface.					
DaletPlus Windows	DaletPlus uses dockable windows, which can be toggled on/off at will, always remembering their last position and content. Applications however open in the Editing area, which is surrounded by dockable windows. You have to save your work when closing an application in the Editing area (NewsEdit, Timeline, Asset Manager Forms, Contacts).					
DaletPlus Windows Client	A DaletPlus client interface that provides a full complement of tools that are afforded by a Windows interface.					

Displayed fields	Just like in Windows™ , each content listing (the tree view of the Media Tab, the Rundowns, the Logs, Planning areas, list view of ClipBin) have a header containing fields according to which the content of the listing is composed. Displayed fields can be changed by means of the contextual menu when resting the mouse on the header area.						
Feeds	Incoming media material, such as Video Wires which can be recorded using the Timeline.						
Field Type	Defines the type of information (e.g. date, text, video file, etc.) that can be entered in a Title Form Field. An unlimited number of Field Types can be defined in DaletPlus.						
Item	An instance of a title scheduled in the rundown.						
Media Asset	A text, image, audio, or video file or a composite object containing any combination of text images audio or video (such as scripts containing audio or video files, EDL with video, audio and graphics etc.).						
Media Jobs/Timeline	Graphical interface to create and manage recordings.						
Media Process Status	The associated media files of a title may undergo changes upon certain conditions, such as being recorded, converting, deleted etc These states can be indicated in the Displayed Fields of the Categories when the field Media Process Status is assigned.						
Media Properties	Every Title can have one or more associated media files on different storage units. Those files, can be on-line, off- line [non-existent, deleted], or near line [archived].						
Timeline	Video Editor of DaletPlus.						
Trimmer	Almost like MediaLogger, but used only to extract clips to ClipBin.						
MediaLogger	Application to open media feeds and video titles (typically raw material) in order to extract clips into the ClipBin or to render them directly into new video titles.						
MediaWall	Area which can be used for the display of incoming feed.						
Meta-Data	Information that describes a Media Asset (e.g. author, creation date, subject, etc.).						
On Air Player/Carts	Controls the play out of the video server.						
Patterns	Definable blueprints for the automatic creation of recurring rundowns.						
Planning Editor	Allows you to plan news and events, logistics etc.						
Preview Window	All video titles can be previewed in this window. Used by all media applications.						
Program	The container of a rundown, containing the time definitions, studio assignments and other information.						
Purge	Most of the working material can be automatically removed from the system. Typically wires are removed after very few days. 55						
Rundown	The broadcast schedule. Also studio devices can be controlled from the rundown.						

Rundown Views	The rundown is a central element in every newsroom. Journalists can consult it to browser for information, directors use it to prepare the broadcast, the studio devices are controlled by it etc. For all of those tasks you can use different views which change the meta information (displayed fields, information, colors) accordingly.
Scheduled Recording	Using the timeline you can start/end recordings at a given future time and length.
Search	Searches are based on profiles, a composition of different meta data fields. DaletPlus has a set of predefined profiles with the simplest "default profile" consisting of one metadata field "full text". Own profiles can be developed and saved.
Security Window	When creating a program a time frame can be set, during which DaletPlus is sensitive to incoming signals.
Story Templates	In a rundown, scripts have to be easily distinguishable. A script describing an intro (read by the anchor) requires different treatment in terms of time measurement for example, than a script which contains both anchor text and a video. Story Templates allow you to a) create easily distinguishable icons and b) to define default time settings and c) can provide automatically additional data than that typed in by the journalist.
Title	A media asset and its corresponding meta-data together are referred to as a Title. A title can be composed of a single media asset or a composite media asset containing other media assets.
Title Type	Defines the type of Media Asset (e.g. video, audio, etc.).
Workspace	An arrangement of windows which can be saved and reopened. For example, when working with video, you may want to have a workspace that consists of a preview window and the ClipBin. Using saved workspaces saves you the work of having to rearrange windows according to your work again and again.